United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1609
24 March 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes Declaration of National Reconciliation signed today by Somali political leaders in Nairobi; pledges United Nations support for restoration of peace and stability in Somalia.

+ General Assembly adopts three resolutions authorizing Secretary-General to commit $200 million a month to maintain UNPROFOR, UNOSOM II and ONUMOZ.

+ Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks hears proposals for legally binding instrument to enforce high seas fisheries management.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the signing today of the Declaration of National Reconciliation by Somali political leaders meeting in Nairobi. The Secretary-General congratulated them for showing wisdom and political maturity during the negotiations, which were held under the auspices of the United Nations. He urged the leaders to fully implement the commitments undertaken in the Declaration and pledged the full support of the United Nations in helping the Somali people achieve peace and stability.

The Declaration contains a number of general principles covering, among other things, the repudiation of violence as a means of resolving conflicts, the implementation of a cease-fire and voluntary disarmament throughout Somalia. Under the specific terms of the Declaration, the political leaders agreed to restore peace throughout the country, particularly in areas where conflict continued. The factions which signed the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement and the Somali National Movement (SNM) will meet on 15 April to discuss the establishment of a Legislative Assembly after the formation of a national Government. In order to restore the sovereignty of the Somali State, a National Reconciliation Conference will be convened on 15 May to elect a President and Vice-Presidents, and to appoint a Prime Minister.

* * *

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The General Assembly today adopted three resolutions authorizing the Secretary-General to commit nearly $200 million a month to maintain three United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General could commit over $95 million to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1 April to 31 July; more than $77 million to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for four months from 1 June; and nearly $26 million for the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for three months from 1 May. The Assembly took those actions, without a vote, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Assembly also adopted a text requesting the Board of Auditors to conduct a special audit of all aspects of the procurement for peace-keeping and observer missions. By the terms of another text, it decided to consider all administrative and budgetary aspect of peace-keeping operations by next May.

* * *

A legally binding instrument to enforce measures for high seas fisheries management was favoured by many countries yesterday at the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Several representatives said such an instrument would be the logical outcome of the Conference. The Argentinian representative said it should be given the same binding, global character as conventions on the ozone layer and biodiversity. Regional arrangements had failed to implement effective conservation and management, he continued. Only a legally binding instrument with a dispute-settlement mechanism could be effective against those pillaging marine resources.

Other delegates said they were flexible about the final outcome of the Conference and were optimistic that it would improve international fisheries cooperation. The United States said some delegates were opting for a General Assembly resolution which would be adaptable to various situations but which would have less sway around the world than a binding instrument.

* *** *